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17 March 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence  
FROM: Special Assistant to the DCI  
SUBJECT: Meeting with Retirees

1. As part of the weekly panel schedule, I included one with retirees. Before setting up this meeting, I want to be sure the format and composition are what you want.

2. Format. Normally, these panels are primed to come up with ideas for your consideration. With the retirees I think you have much the same problem as you had making changes at the Naval War College: an imperfect understanding of what you are trying to do; hostility to the changes and how they are being carried out; and a need for direct communication with influential, respected members of the retired community. Consequently, I recommend you use this meeting to:

- build support by explaining what you have been doing, why, and laying out your plans for the future.
- profit from their perspective as senior insiders who are now observers on the outside.

The meeting would then consist of perhaps 20 minutes from you followed by 40 minutes for discussion.

3. Composition. I asked [ ] and the DDA organization to suggest participants. The criteria I layed out were:

- held senior positions in Agency
- highly respected while in Agency

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- continue to be respected after retirement
- influential in intelligence circles
- no radicals - either left or right
- no personalities (i.e., individuals who are active in media and might use the meeting to fuel own purposes)
- Washington, D.C. area only - for simplicity

4. Their lists are attached.   
independently, came up with many of the same names. I think they both satisfied all my criteria and have suggested some really top people. The "official" list prepared by Admin/Personnel looks to be a cross-section of second and third echelon people. I doubt that an hour with them would produce much payback in terms of better understanding and support for your initiatives in the active or retired intelligence community.

5. Request you indicate those which interest you plus any others I should include. I think we should stay with a group of 10-12 to permit a good exchange. If it works well, we can always put another group together.

Very respectfully,

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Attachments:  
As Stated

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